

*File:
SSU*

15 May 1946

Honorable Robert P. Patterson
Secretary of War
Room 3E 880, Pentagon Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

You will recall that when the functions of the Director of the Office of Strategic Services were transferred to you by Executive Order dated 20 September 1945, you appointed Brigadier General John Magruder as your representative to exercise the functions so transferred. This appointment was made by a memorandum dated 27 September 1945 which you addressed to General Magruder personally rather than to the Director of the Strategic Services Unit, which was created by the same memorandum.

The undersigned succeeded to command of the Strategic Services Unit on 3 April 1946. In view of the personal nature of the original appointment, there is an apparent technical break in the chain of authority. Ordinarily such a break would not be considered of great practical importance. However, the position of Director of SSU is charged with various duties of unusual nature which place particular responsibility on the person of the Director. It is felt that other agencies and branches of the Government may view with care the succession of authority.

If it was your intention to invest the office rather than the person with the necessary authority, it is respectfully submitted that the technical omission might easily be overcome by issuing a memorandum similar to that of 27 September 1945, addressed to the Director of the Strategic Services Unit, instead of the incumbent. For your convenience, a proposed form for the memorandum in question is attached.

Yours very truly,

WILLIAM W. QUINN
Colonel, Infantry
Director